Development of modified variety of Rajmah by China

304. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has developed a modified variety of pulse 'Rajmah' to challenge Indian produce in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian producers of Rajmah?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is no information available on any such variety in the available scientific literature.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Agro-Reforms

305. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture sector is facing a number of problems such as low productivity, floods, decreasing water level, loans at higher rate, adverse market and low private investments;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan for agro reforms and increasing private investments to bring the country into higher growth rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a).to (c) The Government is aware of these problems being faced by farmers in some areas of the country. However, with a view to increase agricultural production, Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for addressing specific segments of agriculture to ensure higher productivity. These initiatives are in the areas of both cereals and non-cereals crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries and dairying. Equal emphasis is also given to timely availability of input and an overall thrust towards diversification into higher value produces and plantations. Initiatives taken towards these

areas include launch of Horticulture Mission, undertaking activities with a mission approach for enhancing productivity and quality of cotton, oilseeds, pulses and coarse grains.

The strategies formulated by the Government for making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture/activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

National Horticulture Mission in Himachal Pradesh

†306. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Horticulture Mission with a view to promote horticulture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; .

(c) the States proposed to be given priority in this regard;

(d) whether any special project has been prepared/proposed under the Mission in Himachal Pradesh keeping in view the geographical and environmental conditions of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.